The Cheating Age found out,

When Knaves was moſt in Faſhion.

Wherein are deſcrib'd the many Frauds, Cheats, Abuſes, and vaſt Sums of Money that *England* had been Cheated of in this Long, Bloody and Expenſive War. Lively Repreſented in the ſeveral Figures following.

Regiſter'd in the Stamp-Office *purſuant to Act of Parliament.*

A *A great General, Throwing Men's Lives away againſt Stone Walls, while he Capitulates with the Enemy for Vaſt Sums of Money, (which he puts in his own Pocket to ſave the Town from being Plunder'd.*

SEE how the General in Pomp Beſtrides
The Paſſive Animal, on which he Rides:
He gains Immortal Honour and Renown,
By the poor Soldier's Valour, not his Own.
And thus He is eſteem'd both Wiſe and Great,
But if We ſearch the Truth, 'tis All a Cheat;

The Soldier ventures 'gainſt a Heaps of Stones,
And his Reward at Beſt's, but Broken Bones.
The General to ſave the Town from Plunder,
Excepts a Bribe, and ſo brings both Sides under.
Falſe-Muſters, Non-Effective-men, ſuch Things,
For All but Subalterns, Great Profit brings:
Nay, even Serjeants, and the Corp'rals too,
Will have a Snack, and take what's not their Due;
For tho' the Sum be e'er ſo ſmall, yet they
Will ſomething Stop, out of the Soldiers Pay:
Who by Experience, knows it is in Vain,
Againſt his Officer for to Complain;
Becauſe they Hang together like a Chain.
Thus their Examples he will not forget,
But Cheats poor Folks, by running in their Debt.

B. *A Politician Sigming the B——— T———y, and Two Butter Merchants preſenting him with Bags of Money for his Reward.*

THE Politician, in his own Conceit,
Is very Wiſe; but yet he is a Cheat:
By him his Country is for Gold Betray'd,
And he by Two *D——h* Boors a Cully made:
To him they freely do their Money tender,
He Signs their Deeds, and does his Truſt Surrender.

C. *A Pay-Maſter of an Army, Counting over a Grid-Iron, what Falls thro' is his Own, with the Reſt he Pays the Army.*

IF by Pay-maſters ſuch vile Arts were uſed,
No wonder that the Nation was abuſed:
Thouſands miſpent, the Army yet unpaid,
The Pay-maſter has ſure his Truſt betray'd:
Gardens, fine Houſe, and a Whore maintain'd
By that which he has from the Army drain'd.
Obſerve how like a cheating Knave he counts,
And yet his Conſcience all his Sins ſurmounts.

D. *An Admiral Selling the Reſt of his Fleet to the Enemy, he Lying by with ſome Ships, the reſt Engages, but are Loſt for want of his Help.*

THE Admiral aloof does ſtand, when he
Should ſail, and ſtrive to ſink the Enemy;
The Signal given, ſome few Ships fall on,
[illegible] the Enemy, but are undone.

O'er-power'd in Number, yet they bravely Fight,
And ſcorn their ſafety by a ſhameful Flight.
In vain they make a Signal for Relief,
They're Sold, Betray'd, their Hearts are full of Grief.
Captains innumerable ways purſue,
To heap up Riches for they know not who.
When they have taken a rich ſtately Prize,
To blind the World, and the poor Seamens Eyes,
(Having convey'd away the Richeſt Things)
They cry, take heed, ho, a leak ſhe ſprings:
Then ſtrand the Ship, by running her aſhore,
And thus they quit the valiant Sailors Score.
The Purſer too has ways to Cheat the Men,
For every Shilling he is ſure of Ten.
Whene'er a Sailor dies, the Purſer looks,
And never fails to bring him in his Books;
Which he with an audacious Face will ſhow,
Tho' the poor Soul did not one Farthing owe.
He and his Captain always muſt agree,
Or elſe he cannot ſtand by Knavery.
The Maſter, Gunner, and the Boat-ſwain too
Are Cheats, and each does his own Ends purſue.
They all have Places, where to keep their Store,
Some they do uſe, but yet embezzle more.

E: *The true Poſture of a Courtier, taking Money of two Broken Shop-Keepers for a Place at Court, which they are never like to have*

THE Courtier like a Poſture-Maſter ſtands,
And to each Suppliant extends his Hands; — He'

He'll take a Bribe from Twenty, and then Swear,
Flatter, and Fawn, and Promiſe very fair,
That each Petitioner ſhall have the Place,
And thus he leads 'em on a Wild-Gooſe Chaſe.
And tho' you've brib'd him once, yet if he find
You do not always Money bring, he's blind
And deaf to every thing that you can ſay,
And crys, my Friend, pray come another Day.
Such Courtiers ſure do very ſeldom find
A true Contentment, or true Peace of Mind.

F. *The Judge, the Lawyer, and the Solicitor, are Inſtruments to Cheat us out of our Eſtates, and make the Rich become Humble and Poor.*

THE Lawyer and Solicitor do ſtrive
To Cheat the Ignorant, by which they Thrive.
The Secrets of your Cauſe when once Reveal'd,
(And which you think ſhould be by them conceal'd)
Are to your Adverſary open laid;
And thus you by your Friends are ſoon betray'd.
Thus they Combine and Cheat for double Fee;
Which is a Bribe they call Gratuity.
If that a Client's Rich, they'll drill him on,
And never leave him till he is Undone.
They'll ſay his Cauſe is firm and very Good,
And like a Leach will ſuck his Vital Blood.
The grave Judge too, who did demurely ſit,
Did to their Judgment, for a Bribe, ſubmit:
Thus he who ſhould a good Example give,
Was Perjur'd for the Gold he did receive:

So

So that what Man of Sence will Lawyers Truſt,
You'll find not One in Twenty of 'em Juſt.

G. *The Doctor, Apothecary, and Surgeon, Combines to Cheat us out of our Lives, and to put young Fops in Poſſeſſion of the Eſtate.*

THE Doctor by one ſingle Doſe of Pills,
For ever Cures the Patient of all Ills:
If that the Husband has a Jealous Wife,
He quickly Cures him of that irkſome Life:
Or, if the Father Lives too long, the Son
Goes to the Doctor, and his Work's ſoon done.
The Surgeon and Apothecaries are
Twin-Brothers, and their wicked Acts appear,
Both have of Knavery a double Share.

H. *And Prieſts of moſt Perſuaſions (where we to do as they do) would Juggle us out of our Souls; for the Papiſt ſays the way to Salvation is Faith in Tranſubſtantiation, the Holy Beads and Praying out of Purgatory: The Diſſenter ſays the ſure way is to follow the Rules of* Baxter's *Shove to the heavy Arſe Chriſtian; and the Quaker ſays the only way is to follow the Light within, but the Devil ſays they are all wrong, and they largely increaſe his Dominions.*

SEE how the Prieſt, Fanatick Quaker ſtand,
The 3 great *Plagues* that do infeſt the *Land*,
The Prieſt ſays, if you *Purgatory* miſs,
You never can enjoy true Heavenly Bliſs:
The *Limbo Patrum* you muſt enter in,
And *Flux* a Thouſand Years for every Sin:
Nay, if by him your Sins are not Forgiven,
St. *Peter* will not let you into Heaven.

The *Presbyterian*, all ſuch Acts denies,
Aud all the *Popiſh* Power on Earth defies:
He by his Abſolute *Predeſtination*,
And ſuch Falſe Notions does diſturb the *Nation*.
The *Quaker* over Head and Ears in Sin,
Does proudly boaſt he has the Light within;
With Cheating Aſpect and with Looks demure,
He thinks his Brethren they are all Sincere.

I. *The Exciſe-men, and Cuſtom-Houſe-Officers, conſulting to Cheat the Queen both of Cuſtom and Duty.*

THo' the Exciſeman ſtruts and looks ſo great,
Yet all the World can tell that he's a Cheat.
The *Cuſtom-Officers* have the ſame Fate.
The Checks of Conſcience they do both deride,
And does unlawfully ſuppo t his Pride.
Of Yellow Boys preſent but half a Score,
You then may run a Thouſand pounds a Shore:

Such a like Sum will make the *Exciſeman blind*,
He no Concealment in your Houſe will find:
Brew Fifty Buſhels of good Malt a Week,
Shew him but Three he will no further ſeek:
Or if by Chance there any more appear,
He ſets it down and rates it as *Small-Beer*.

K. *A Church-Warden or Over ſeer of the Poor, dividing the Poor's Money, ſaying, Here's Three for my ſelf, and One for the Poor.*

THE Over-Seer Walks from Door to Door;
Tells each Houſe, and gathers for the Poor
But like a Cheating and Penurious Knave,
The greateſt Part, he for himſelf doth Save

Whene'er the Poor do for their Pension come,
They know beforehand what will be *their doom*,
Some have two Shillings, some but one, *few more*

If each *Church-warden* wou'd but quit *their Score*
Each poor Parishioner would better fare,
And lawfully might claim a Treble Share.

L. *An Informing-Constable, for the sake of Twenty Shillings, Presses a Poor Man from his Family, and Sells him to a Recruiting Captain.*

HOW the *Informing Constables* Trapan,
And do for Twenty Shillings Sell a Man!

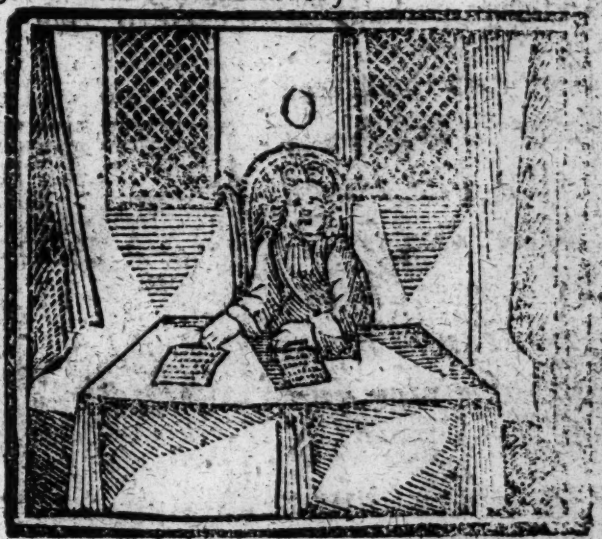
See what it is to give Authority
To those who make't a Cloak for Knavery.

M. *Bayliffs Arresting a Man, but for a Fee, lets him go again.*

SEE how the Catchpoles they do daily break
Their Sacred Oath, and all for Money's sake;
If you're in Hold, a Bribe will set you free,
Thus do they live and die in Knavery.

N. *A Tally-man Selling Cloaths for five times the worth, and if you miss Payment but one Week, he then sends you to Prison.*

A Tally-man, O Shame to Humane Race!
To Trade a Scandal, to the Town Disgrace:
He makes each poor, consenting needy Whore,
For every Shilling, pay at least a Score.
In damag'd Goods he chiefly deals, yet he
Swears they are good; beware such Knavery.



O. *A Young Clerk, who has spent all his Fortune in Whoring, is Counterfeiting Bank and Exchequer Bills to support his Extravagancy.*

TAke warning by this Young Man's Fate you see,
That he's reduc'd to utmost Poverty;
The Whores have drain'd his Back and Pockets dry,
He Counterfeits Bank-Bills, for which he's sure to Die.

P. *Two Sweetners, who fearing the Rope, turns Guinea-droppers, to chouce Young Fools and Countrymen.*

THE Sweetners, when all other Methods fail,
And can no longer live by Woman's Tail,
Do drop a Guinea, and by that trepan
The ignorant, unwary Country-man,
He cry's, *I muſt have half*; then ſtrait they go
To an Ale-houſe to; the poor Man's Woe:
They call for Liquor, quickly make him Drunk,
And then perhaps he's pleas'd to have a Punk;
Or elſe they fall a Gaming, either way,
They ſtrip the Countryman, and will no longer ſtay.

R. *The honeſt Taylor and Woollen-draper Cheating a Young Beau both of Price and Meaſure, and Selling* Yorkſhire *Cloth for Right* Spaniſh.

THE *Beau* for Faſhionable Cloaths depends
Upon his two moſt honeſt, truſty Friends

The *Taylor* and the *Draper*, who combine,
And ſtrive the Powder'd Beau to undermine.
Cheated by both, he pays a double Price,
Becauſe he muſt have all Things very Nice.

S. The Never-to-be forgotten Wooden Ruff-Society, the Mealman, Baker and Honeſt Miller, who is Conſulting at Queen Hithe to Cheat both Rich and Poor, in Price, Goodneſs, and Weight, and Meaſure.

SEE at *Queen-Hyth* Three Rogues combine to Cheat
The Poor, that they may ſoon be Rich and Great;
Tho' the new Crop does plentiful appear,
They raiſe their Price and ſo make Bread grow dear.

T. The Vintner vouching his Combuſtible Liquors to be Neat and Choice Wine, tho' mixt up with Slows, Syder and Roman Vitriol.

SEE how the *Vintner* dams his precious Blood,
And ſwears that all his Wine is Neat and Good;
Tho' he is conſcious every drop he draws,
Was Brew'd in *Thames-Street* by ſaim'd *Harry Dawes*

U. *The Ale-House-man drinking to his Customer, so by Drinking, Nick and Froth, and setting up Three for One, his Gains are very great.*

THE *Victualler* does with Impudence appear,
Brings you a Mug, and drinks up half your Beer;
And when the Company is larger grown,
He never fails to Score up Three for One.

W. *Dr.* P——ge, *the Ass-trologer, who confounds the Nativities of the Gentry for a Guinea, and tells Young Maids and Apprentices when they'll be Marry'd for One Shilling; which is as great a Cheat as all the rest. The whole Representing the many Frauds, Cheats, and Abuses of the late Cheating Age.*

SEE the *Ass-trologer* brings up the Rear,
And with Attention on the Sky does stare:
Says he'll the Secrets of your Life make known,
Tho' he cannot discover what's his own.
He in ambiguous Terms does always speak,
And thus deludes the Credulous and Weak;
The Money paid, he then has gain'd his Ends,
And the poor Cullies always are his Friends.

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